WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857

MARCH 1986

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

129-YEAR-OLD SOCIETY WITHOUT A HOME APPROVES COMMITTEE TO STUDY SPACE NEEDS, POSSIBILITIES

The 34 members attending the Washtenaw County Historical Society November potluck dinner unanimously approved appointment of a committee to analyze society needs with respect to possible acquisition of a facility.

A quorum is ten percent of the membership but not less than 20. Membership Chairman Pauline Walters said membership stood at 198.

A Long Range Planning Committee (LRP) appointed in June by President Galen Wilson, recommended this action to the board.

James Parker, LRP chairman, summarized committee discussions. Alice Ziegler traced the Society's long history of efforts to find a home for its collection. Curator Gary Kuehnle showed examples and pictures of "exciting things" in the collection but said it is hard to work on it in its present piled-up storage situation.

The committee used the word "home" and "facility" in the sense of headquarters or space, not necessarily a museum or house. It could be an office, a meeting place or even less crowded, more convenient storage.

Parker pointed out some of the many issues involved—cost, size, kind of building, own or rent, how to finance it, need of volunteers, staff.

Mrs. Ziegler said the Pioneer Society had a room in the county courthouse from 1879-1929. Then the new Washtenaw Historical Society was organized and finding a home became the "big question."

Many places, obvious and not so obvious, were considered but money and fund raising were seen as major stumbling blocks. The Society started with nothing at the beginning of the Depression.

A building fund of $10,000 was laboriously accumulated by the late 1960's when a major gift of $20,000 was received from Katherine Dexter McCormick, a descendant of Washtenaw's pioneer judge, Samuel W. Dexter.

Photos by Gary Kuehnle

WCHS's late 19th century Windsor youth chair of Orange Risdon, who surveyed Detroit-Chicago road (US-12) in 1825, founded Saline.

That enabled (unsuccessful) museum efforts at Parker Mill and Barton Powerhouse. Thanks in part to reimbursement from the City of Ann Arbor for capital improvements to the powerhouse, the museum fund now contains more than $43,000.

The collection meanwhile has been moved about from here to there and back. All or parts of it have been in and out of the courthouse three times for a total of 61 years; in various U-M quarters, 33 years; the old city water department twice, 14 years; in two city schools, 3 years; and the Cole-Pool barn, 16 years, as well as items elsewhere.

Items are now on loan to Kempf House, Cobblestone Farm, Dexter Historical Museum and Clements Library.

Only the library items, mainly on loan to U-M's Bentley Library, are stored in ideal conditions and available for research.

Curator Gary Kuehnle called the Society collections policy "fantastically well-done." It was completed just before he came on

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RURAL ARCHITECTURE IN COUNTY MARCH TOPIC

A slide show, "Rural Architecture in Washtenaw County," will be given by Professor Marshall S. McLennan and Robin Haynes of Eastern Michigan University at the WCHS meeting at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at the Ann Arbor American Legion.

The show will focus on houses and some barns around the county as representatives of architectural styles and folk construction.

McLennan, professor of geography, has directed the EMU master's program in historic preservation since 1979. Ms. Haynes, a 1984 graduate of the program, is an EMU lecturer.

NEW COMMITTEE NAMED

The new Long Range Planning committee approved in November is composed of Patricia Austin, Carol Freeman, Gary Kuehnle, James Parker, Louisa Pieper, Dave Pollock, Nancy Schuon, Dalys Vogel, Esther Warzynski, Galen Wilson and Alice Ziegler.

WCHS 1986 CALENDARS NOW ON SALE AT $4

WCHS's 1986 calendars featuring drawings of Washtenaw county buildings and scenes by Bill Shurtliff are now available for $4 from President Galen Wilson and Vice-president Esther Warzynski.

To order by mail send check or money order to: WCHS calendar, Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. For information, call Galen at 764-2347 (office hours) or Esther at 662-6275.

MEETING DATE CHANGED, MAP CURATOR TO SPEAK

David Bosse, map curator at the U-M's Clements Library, will speak on "The Mapping of Michigan," at the WCHS meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, at Clements Library. PLEASE NOTE: The date has been changed from the 17th because of a scheduling conflict at the library.

THE REST OF THE STORY

SHORT, TROUBLED LIVES OF ELISHA AND MARY ANN RUMSEY

Russell E. Bidlack, dean-emeritus of the U-M School of Library Science, spoke about Ann Arbor's lesser-known co-founding couple, Elisha and Mary Ann Rumsey, at the October WCHS meeting.

A report on the first half of his 33-page paper appeared in the November-December 1985 *Impressions.* It traced Dr. Bidlack's findings about Elisha and his somewhat mysterious Mary Ann up to shortly after Ann Arbor's founding. The report continues:

"On today's map, Section 29, Ann Arbor township (Allen and Rumsey's initial purchase), is bounded by a line slightly beyond Felch Street on the north, by State Street on the east, by Hill Street on the south and by North Seventh Street on the west.

"Rumsey's part (the southeast quarter) is bounded today by Huron Street on the north, State Street on the east, Hill Street on the south and First Street on the west."

Initially uncertain of the boundaries of their land, Allen and Rumsey soon discovered that their first purchase did not extend to the river nor was Allen's Creek the east-west boundary between them.

Anxious to own land along the river, they were back in Detroit March 3, 1824, to purchase additional parcels (a quarter section in all) in Sections 20 and 21. The railroad station and Gandy Dancer Restaurant stand on the property today.

"There was doubtless much amusement when it was discovered that Rumsey's house actually stood on Allen's land. This was corrected in May 1825 when, for $100, Allen sold to Rumsey a tract of 39 acres between Allen's Creek and First Street, which included Rumsey's home.

"Little money was actually exchanged, however, because Rumsey then sold to Allen (for $25) his share of one of the parcels of land they had purchased together in Section 21 along with 40 acres on Rumsey's quarter of Section 29 south of the village for $50. (On today's map, these 40 acres are bounded by Jefferson on the north. Fifth Avenue on the east, Hill Street on the south and First Street on the west.)

On his own, Rumsey also purchased the north-east quarter of Section 28. Today, the U-M medical complex occupies the site. Rumsey sold it in August 1826 to Cornelius Ousterhaut for $155.

On Tuesday, May 25, 1824, Allen and Rumsey were again in Detroit to register their map of the village. This is the earliest map of Ann Arbor and the earliest written record discovered to date on which is written the name of the village.

This map had been drawn by Philo E. Judd, a Detroit surveyor. Judd was then at work on a map and gazeteer of all of Michigan Territory, a project that was never completed because he died in September 1824.

WINTERS OF 1824, '25 SO MILD YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE CALENDAR

The winters of 1824 when Allen And Rumsey founded Ann Arbor and the next year are reported as remarkably mild.

In a letter dated February 12, 1824, Charles Jams Lanman of Frenchtown on the River Raisin wrote: "Since the close of autumn, the weather has been mild like April, and there have not been six days of sleighing either upon snow or ice."

An officer at the Detroit garrison kept a daily weather "diary" from January through March 1824. He recorded the coldest day as February 5 when the mercury stood at 4 degrees, but on January 11th it had reached 63 degrees and on February 20th, 66 degrees. There had been only one day of snow in January and five during February.

The following year, editor John Sheldon noted in his *Detroit Gazette* of February 25, 1825:

> **The calendar tells us we have winter . . . Without such information it would seem difficult to believe the fact. We have had very little cold weather; almost no snow; and our river has been open during the whole season. Our ice-houses are unfilled, and all who have waited for an opportunity of filling them will probably be compelled to wait till next January.**

Michigan's first printed map, drawn by John Farmer, appeared in September 1825.

In Detroit on that May 25th, Allen and Rumsey had their plat notarized by Richard Smyth, justice of the peace and one of the commissioners who had selected Ann Arbor as the county seat.

Then they registered it with Jeremiah Teh Eyck, Register of Michigan Territory. They also called on the Governor who issued a proclamation the following day establishing "the seat of Justice of the said County of Washtenaw at the said town of Ann Arbour."

Although the town's name on the map was written as one word, it was spelled as two words in the Governor's proclamation. Throughout both their lifetimes, Allen and Rumsey always used the pre-Webster spelling of Arbor—"Arbour."

While in Detroit to register their map, Allen and Rumsey also arranged for an advertisement in the weekly Detroit Gazette inviting "the attention of EMIGRANTS, particularly of *Mechanics* and *Artisans* to the village of Ann-Arbour. . .pleasantly located on the Lower Huron."

This was the first appearance of the town's name in print (June 4, 1824).

"The exact origin of the name Ann Arbor, including the precise date upon which Allen and Rumsey chose it, will probably never be known.

"There have been many versions reported through the years; even people living in or near the village when the choice was made remember the circumstances differently.

"Some thought (or imagined) that it had been inspired when Ann Allen and Mary Ann Rumsey were observed sewing, or preparing food beneath a natural grape arbor, but there is ample proof that Ann Allen did not even arrive in the village until October 1824, six months after the name had been registered in Detroit.

"Some have claimed that it was chosen solely to honor Mrs. Allen while others have made a similar claim for Mrs. Rumsey.

Mary H. Clark, Ann Arbor's first historian, attempting to solve the mystery while Ann Allen was yet alive, reported that "Mrs. Allen always denied all claim to the title, and declared that she could not tell how it came about, that her husband at first proposed it should be 'Annapolis,' after a place with which he was once familiar, but she preferred the name 'Ann Arbor'

as more original."

In her sketch of Mary Ann Rumsey in *Godey's Magazine and Lady's Book* in 1852, Mary Clark wrote:

> It was called "Arbor," on account of the noble aspect of the original site of the village—which was a burr oak opening, resembling an arbor laid out and cultivated by the hand of taste. For the prefix "Ann," it was indebted, according to undeniable tradition, to two prominent women whose husbands were the first purchasers and settlers in the vicinity."

WOULD YOU BELIEVE STURGEON IN HURON?

Pioneer Dr. Benjamin Packard wrote of his first visit to Washtenaw County in 1825 (in part):

> **A Fish Society was next formed. There were no obstructions in the river from Lake Erie to Ann Arbor and Sturgeon and other fish came up there. The Fish Society built a dam across the river and constructed a fish trap and each member in his turn, had the exclusive right to the use of the trap for a given time.**

"A number of early settlers, especially those who come from or had lived in the South, used the word 'arbor' to describe the appearance of the oak opening surrounding the town, in which the trees were scattered and frequently several rods apart. For example, Dr. Benjamin Packard, who arrived in April 1825, recalled that the whole (area) looked like a complete arbor.

"The earliest printed reference to the origin of name appeared in the first issue of Ann Arbor's first newspaper, the *Western Emigrant,* on November 13, 1829.

"Even this 1829 account implies, incorrectly, that Ann Allen had endured the hardships of a pioneer wife before the name was chosen.

"Our earliest 'eye-witness' description of Ann Arbor by a settler is found in a letter written in Detroit on June 5, 1824, by Ezra Maynard to his son William S. Maynard in New York.

He reported "now there are about 100 lots taken up, several houses commenced...400 village lots are already staked out...Two Saw Mills are commenced and a Grist Mill is to commence soon. The Huron will admit of the most good mill sites of any River I ever saw all though the Law forbids of the navigation being obstructed for 150 miles from its mouth. But owing to the great migration into this place, provisions are high and we shall have to pinch a little till we can raise them ourselves..."

"While many of the pioneers recalled Elisha Rumsey as the cordial proprietor of Ann Arbor's first tavern, soon given the name Washtenaw Coffee House, they also paid tribute to his wife's excellence as a cook and hostess.

"Outwardly reconciled to the loss of her baby, it is apparent that Mary Ann soon regained her happy smile and friendly nature."

Mary Clark quoted John Allen in her article, "When we had been out land-hunting, or otherwise engaged through the day, so that we returned late and tired out, she was always ready with good humor and a *good supper.*"

On more than one occasion when an Indian came begging, which was a frequent occurrence according to Mary Clark, Mrs. Rumsey "brandished her broom and bade them begone!"

"As the number of land hunters increased, Mary Ann, the only woman in the village, found herself overwhelmed. Relief came, however, on May 27, 1824, with the appearance of a young couple, Asa and Sarah Smith with their one-year old daughter.

"They were in Detroit when Allen and Rumsey came to register their village map and came to Rumsey's attention. Impressed with Smith's apparent skills as a mechanic, Rumsey offered to share his home with them until Asa could build a shanty for himself on the condition that Sarah would do the cooking for the men who were about to build a sawmill on the Huron.

"Asa Smith proved to be an excellent carpenter, and as fast as he completed a cabin for his family, he would sell it to a new settler and start another, repeating this exercise in upward mobility thirteen times between 1824 and 1831.

"He also built a log school that served as the town's first church—it stood on Rumsey's land, a lot on Main Street facing West next to Washington Street on the south. In a number of Rumsey deeds it is designated as "church square" and appears to have been a donation by Rumsey to the community.

"No record has been found, however, associating the Rumseys with any of the early efforts to organize a church in Ann Arbor.

"In gratitude to Rumsey for providing them their initial shelter in Ann Arbor, Asa and Sarah Smith named their first son, born November 24, 1825, Elisha Walker Rumsey Smith. He was the first white child born in the village of Ann Arbor.

"The only true holiday observed by the early settlers was the 4th of July. On that day, everyone was expected to cease work. In 1824, the 4th fell on a Sunday.

"On Saturday everyone in the county was invited by Benjamin Woodruff to come to Woodruff's Grove—79 people turned out. On Sunday, people in Ann Arbor and the immediate vicinity celebrated again.

"According to the *Detroit Gazette,* 50 people sat down to a dinner served out-of-doors on Huron Street. Others remembered the number as nearer 40, but whatever the number, this must have been the largest meal that Mrs. Rumsey had ever served.

HURON RIVER BEST FOR MILL SITES

Pioneer Pittsfield township settler Ezra Maynard wrote on June 5, 1824, about Ann Arbor:

> **400 village lots are already staked out and many of them sold and given to mechanics who are building frame houses. Two Saw Mills are commenced and a Grist Mill is to commence soon. The Huron will admit of the most good mill sites of any River I ever saw all though the Law forbids of the navigation being obstructed for 150 miles from its mouth.**

On October 16, 1824, John Allen's family arrived in Ann Arbor after a journey of eight weeks. They had traveled from Virginia by covered wagon and horseback. Ann Allen, with her infant daughter, Sarah, was accompanied by John's parents, his youngest brother, James Turner Allen, and by John's two children by a previous marriage.

They all moved into his log block house, two blocks from the Rumsey home. We can imagine the curiosity of the two wives regarding each other, but whether they became friends we do not know.

"The monument placed on

Huron Street in 1924 portraying them together under an arbor has no historical basis, of course.

"On December 30, 1824, the Postmaster General, John McLean, wrote to Allen informing his that Ann Arbor had been designated a post office with Allen as its postmaster.

"Another letter dated February 7, 1825, authorized Allen 'to meet the southern mail at Detroit and go to that place by one road and return by the other and have a post office established on each road." The roads referred to were that along the Huron River and the old Sauk Trail through the woods."

Governor Cass appointed Rumsey and Oliver W. Whitmore to serve three year terms as justices of the peace on March 31, 1825. It was then possible to execute a deed, for example, without all the parties having to travel to Detroit.

"At about the same time, Rumsey was appointed a captain of militia for Ann Arbor. While militia units had existed for some time in both Wayne and Monroe counties, the population growth in the new counties now required better organization.

"Two brigades were created for the Territory on April 3, 1826, each commanded by a brigadier general. The First Brigade comprised the counties of Monroe, Lenawee, Washtenaw and Wayne. Ann Arbor had company status. An interesting footnote is the fact Elisha was required to purchase his own military coat which was sold, after his death, for $9.

"The earliest deed recording sale of a village lot by Rumsey was dated June 11, 1825; for $60 he sold to Harvey Austin of Onondaga County, New York, four lots facing Liberty Street between First and Second Streets. He also included a third of an acre of the land (39 acres) between Allen's Creek and First Street that he had bought from Allen where his house stood. It was there that Austin set up the town's first tannery.

Dr. Packard wrote of his first visit to Ann Arbor in 1825, "I forded the Huron River, and found to my joy a former friend Walker Rumsey was keeping a pioneer's hotel in a log house. This family was very kind and hospitable and I fared well...

"Ann Arbor contained seven log houses and one house part log and part frame (i.e. Rumsey's house). All the meeting I attended while there was a debating club of two members, Walker Rumsey and John Allen. The question discussed was 'Is capital punishment right.' After a spirited discussion the question was decided in the negative."

YEAR-OLD ANN ARBOR WAS GROWING PLACE

What was one-year-old Ann Arbor like? Founder John Allen "exaggerated only modestly when he wrote to his aunt in Ohio on February 20, 1825,":

> **It is now twelve months since I settled here, when there was not an inhabitant within ten miles—how different is the scene now; in the village and neighborhood there is between thirty and forty families, many of whom are of the first respectability; roads have been opened in various directions; mills of every kind started; tradesmen putting their shops in operation by way of preparation for the flood of emigration that is expected next summer; farmers busily engaged in fencing farms which nature has provided already clear for them—in short it already wears the appearance of an old settled country, except the want of Houses and Barns.**

Dr. Packard returned to Ann Arbor in the fall and found that "a number of frame buildings had been put up during the summer, and Ann Arbor had two physicians, Dr. Lord and Dr. Denton, and I was the third."

"Essential features of any American village of the early 19th century were the grist mill and saw mill...A dispute arose between Rumsey and Allen regarding the first saw mill, however.

Allen claimed he had borne personally the total expense of the mill's construction, with the understanding that he (Allen) should then have the exclusive use of the mill for "such term as would be adequate to remunerate me for the cost of building."

After building it, Allen sold it to George W. and James Noyes for $2,000 in payments secured by a mortgage on the premises.

"Legally, Rumsey owned half the mill, though Allen had borne the cost of construction, because they were joint owners of the land on which it stood, and on May 24, 1825, Rumsey had sold his half to George Noyes for $800.

"On November 24, 1826, George Noyes was killed during a house raising in Ann Arbor. Because Noyes was found to be insolvent at his death, the mill property was seized and Allen lost heavily.

With the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, hordes of emigrants moved and in and through Michigan. By the end of the year, Washtenaw County could claim a population of over 1,500, two thirds of whom had been added during that single year.

"Anxious to avoid having to travel to Detroit to conduct most of their official business, Allen, Rumsey and others now urged the Governor and Legislative Council to 'organize' Washtenaw County and make it independent from Wayne.

According to the *Detroit Gazette* of December 13, 1825, delegates from around Washtenaw county had convened at Rumsey's house December 3 to nominate candidates for county offices.

There was no immediate response but on November 20, 1826, Washtenaw was finally brought into organized existence. No longer would a citizen have to travel to Detroit to register a deed, probate an estate or settle a minor legal dispute.

The county was divided into three townships, Ann Arbor, Dexter and Ypsilanti. These were gradually subdivided over the next few years until there were 20 in all.

The first court was held in Ann Arbor on January 15, 1827, with Samuel Dexter presiding as chief judge. Erastus Priest was accused of selling liquor in Ann Arbor in quantities less than one quart without a license (i.e liquor by the glass).

Elisha Rumsey was one of the grand jurors who found sufficient evidence to bring Priest to trial the following day, but the jury, after deliberating two hours, found Priest "not guilty."

"With the 'flood of emigration' taverns besides that of Rumsey's quickly came into existence in Ann Arbor, such as the one operated by Priest. Most travelers considered Rumsey's the best, however, largely because of Mrs. Rumsey's cooking ability.

Rumsey's also served not only as a meeting place but a place of

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

(From Ann Arbor unless otherwise noted.)

Association:
- Ann Arbor Silent Film Society
- Old West Side Association

Commercial:
- Ann Arbor Stamps & Coins (Karl Lagler)
- Blue Front
- Morris Dalitz
- Mr. & Mrs. William Dobson
- Great Lakes Federal Savings
- Mr. & Mrs. Jerome R. Koupal
- F. N. McOmber

Life:
- Mrs. Harold Andrus
- Doris Bach, Kalamazoo
- Robert E. Betzig
- Marjorie Brown
- Dr. & Mrs. William Brown
- Flora Burt, Chelsea
- Mrs. George Cameron
- Professor & Mrs. Douglas Crary
- Dr. Joseph Fisher, Charleston, S.C.
- Mrs. Harold Haines, Tampa, Fl.
- Mrs. Anthony Haven
- Mrs. Elizabeth O. Hayden
- Theodore Heusel
- Mrs. John Judson, Cape Coral, Fl.
- Mrs. Paul Kempf
- Mrs. James Kennedy, Harbor Springs
- Mr. & Mrs. Ted Kennedy
- Mr. & Mrs. Milton Pool
- Mrs. Hazel Proctor
- Mr. & Mrs. George W. Sallade
- Raymond Spokes
- Wystan Stevens
- Sam Sturgis
- Stuart Thayer, Seattle, WA
- Mrs. Harry Towsley
- Mrs. A. C. Wardrop
- Elizabeth Wurster, Philadelphia, PA
- Mr. & Mrs. Lyndon Welch
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Whitker
- Helen Wild

Regular and senior:
- Marie Albrycht
- Forrest Alter
- Alloa C. Anderson, Lake Leelanau
- Emma Anderson
- Dr. & Mrs. Robert E. Anderson
- Florence M. Armbruster
- Mr. & Mrs. William E. Austin, Jr.
- Ms. Rochelle Balkam
- Mrs. Jean Lynn Barnard
- Mrs. Gerhard Bauer
- Mary T. Beckerman
- Mrs. Polly Bender
- Robert Hunt Berry
- Mr. & Mrs. Russell Bidlack
- Frederick O. Bishop, New Orleans, LA
- Mrs. Betty R. Bjork
- Deborah Black
- Mrs. Edward C. Bliska
- Mrs. Joseph Blotner
- Howard E. Bond
- Orlan W. Boston, Sedona, AZ
- Barbara L. Bowen
- David C. Braun
- Allen P. Britton
- Ms. Margaret Bronson, Plymouth
- Ms. Virginia M. Brousalis, Dexter,
- Mrs. Carl Brown, Milan
- Mrs. Ethel H. Brown, Manchester
- Mr. & Mrs. George C. Bunnell
- Mr. & Mrs. William R. Burmeister, Plymouth
- Mrs. Virginia A. Burr
- Mrs. Nondus M. Buss, Manchester
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Butsch
- Miss Mary Campbell
- Ross W. Campbell
- Dr. Ruth Cantieny
- Mrs. James Karras
- Dr. Catherine J. Carroll
- Mrs. Demaris Cash
- Ms. Anne Chamberlain
- Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas G. Chapekis
- Professor & Mrs. Richard B. Couch
- Mrs. Reeva Cranor
- Mr. & Mrs. Ralph E. Crawford
- Richard Cross, Ypsilanti
- Dr. John C. Dann, Dexter
- Mrs. Arthur Davidge
- Mrs. Marion J. Davis
- Dr. & Mrs. Russell N. DeJong
- Athalia M. Demski
- Raymond A. Detter
- Mr. Dana Dever
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dickinson
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred I. Dobson
- James C. Dolan
- Mrs. Carl T. Doman
- Mrs. Dorothy K. Donahue
- Mr. & Mrs. William G. Dow
- William C. Dundas
- Mrs. Margaret Dunn
- Heloise W. Dunstan, Dexter
- Professor Elizabeth Dusseau
- Elsie Dyke & Jay Snyder
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert O. Eberbach, Gregory
- Professor & Mrs. Claude A. Eggertsen
- Roger and Joan Ellsworth
- Mr. & Mrs. John L. Etter
- Mrs. A. R. Favreau
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Fisher, Milan
- Miss Ruth L. Floyd
- Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Folland
- Mr. & Mrs. George H. Forsyth, Jr.
- Cal Foster
- Mrs. William Foyle (student)
- Mrs. Philip H. Francis
- Mr. & Mrs. Karl R. Frankena
- Mrs. Glen Freeman
- Mr. & Mrs. Arthur French
- Doug and Anna Fulton
- Mr. & Mrs. John B. Fyfe, Jr., Dexter
- Mr. & Mrs. Herb Gauderer
- Ruth Gewanter
- Ms. Pamela Gibb
- Mr. & Mrs. Forrest W. Graves
- Whit and Svea Gray
- Lila S. Green
- Professor & Mrs. Morris Greenhut
- Mrs. Helen K. Griffith
- Mrs. Eleanor H. Groves
- Mrs. Lloyd Gutknecht
- Oscar W. Haab
- William and Fannie Gallas Haber
- Warren R. Hale
- Mr. & Mrs. George N. Hall
- John & Flora Mae Hancock
- Marie S. Hansen
- Mr. & Mrs. George Harms
- Ms. Reba Harrington
- Helen E. Harrison
- Margaret W. Hartweg
- Margaret A. Harwick
- Mr. & Mrs. John Hathaway
- Mrs. Laura B. Hawke
- Mrs. Judith M. Heekin
- Dr. H. Mark Hildebrandt
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hogan
- Eugene Holtman
- Dr. & Mrs. F. B. House, Dexter
- Professor & Mrs. Lloyd H. Hughes
- Ms. Beverly Hunt
- Naomi B. James
- Coleman Jewett
- Roy R. Johnson
- Harold A. Jones, Chelsea
- Professor & Mrs. Donald Katz
- Roberta C. Keniston
- Mrs. Fay Kincaid
- Jean Ledwith King
- Russell G. Kinnel
- Mrs. Betty A. Knepper
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kooperman
- Mrs. Lawrence Krohn
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kuehnle
- Scott Kunst
- Miss Hilda Kurtz
- Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Lacy
- Mrs. Marguerite N. Lambert
- Mrs. Paul Leidy
- Mr. & Mrs. Harold J. Lepard
- Richard Levenick
- Emma Lighthall
- Donald E. Limpert, Manchester
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Lirones, Saline

Miss Virginia A. Longworth
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Loughry, Jr.
Joy G. Love, Ypsilanti
Richard & Ellen Lundy, Dexter
Robert B. Lytle, Jr.
Ms. Caroline C. Maier
William & Joyce Malm
Virginia & Wilfred Martin
Jan Martz
Joyce & Stephen Mason
Mr. & Mrs. David K. Maxfield
Mr. & Mrs. William McNitt
Paul Meyer, Saline
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Miller
Harvey J. Miller, Jr.
Dorothy V. Mummery
Ralph & Lydia Muncy
Mrs. Robert Murphy
Mr. & Mrs. Al Nalli, Belleville
Mrs. Lily A. Nutt
Mr. & Mrs. James J. O'Kane
Mr. & Mrs. James C. O'Neill
Mrs. Olin Oeschger, Mount Clemens
Mr. & Mrs. David W. Osler
Mrs. Janette Y. Osler
Mrs. Peter Ostafin
Mrs. Clare M. Palmer
Mrs. William B. Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Parker, Dexter
Mrs. Robert J. Pastorino
Mrs. Joseph Pickl, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Pieper
Mr. & Mrs. David S. Pollock
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene B. Power
Marjorie & Maxwell Reade
Mrs. Stuart Reading
Mary W. Reilly
Fred & Elizabeth Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Ross
Mrs. Dorothy M. Russell
June A. Rusten
Mr. & Mrs. William Sartin, Dexter
Joanne Sauter
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Sawyer
Walter E. Schlecht
Tom & Ann Schriber
Nancy and John Schuon
Vicki Schwager
Mrs. Stanley Shackman
Mrs. Robert Shaneyfelt
Harold T. & Vivian Shapiro
Mrs. Ingrid Sheldon
Mr. & Mrs. John Sherzer
Bill Shurtliff and Janet LaBeau
Mrs. Harold Sias, Chelsea
Sally Silvennoinen
Mrs. Alva Gordon Sink
John W. Smillie, M.D.
Dean Smith
Carol Inglis Spicer
Mrs. A. F. Staeb
Mr. & Mrs. David Staiger
Leslie Krauz Stambaugh
Erich & Dorothy Steiner
Shirley Stevens
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Steward, Saline
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Stuart
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Sutton
Herbert M. Taggart
Mary D. Teal
Mrs. Jane Ten Broeck
Mrs. Harriette A. Thornbury
Miss Mary E. Thornbury
Mrs. Margaret Underwood
Nancy J. Van Blaricum, Dexter
Josephine Vaughn
Mrs. Dalys Vogel
Mrs. Elizabeth Von Voightlander
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert P. Wagner
Ms. Pauline Walters
Mrs. David Warner
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Warzynski
Leonard Williams
Mrs. Mary M. Worle
Ira M. Wheatly
Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. White
George F. Wieland
Johanna M. Wiese
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Wilkins
Mr. & Mrs. David Park Williams
Mrs. Herman Williams
Mr. Leonard Williams, Sunnyvale, CA
Mrs. Millicent H. Willits
Galen R. Wilson
Mrs. James Wilson
Ms. Susan Wineberg
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Mrs. Maxine H. Witting
Mrs. Curtis Wonnacott
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Lawrence & Alice Ziegler (Alice honorary)
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YPSI MEETING CHANGED

Ypsilanti Historical Society voted at its January "annual" meeting to change the annual meeting to September in hopes more members could attend. The 1985 officers will continue until September.

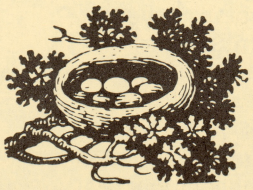
They are Dave Gauntlett, president, Mike Miller, vice-president, Bill Ealy, treasurer, and Billie Zolkosky, secretary.

MRS. CHAPMAN ELECTED

Katy Chapman will head the Chelsea Historical Society this year. Hazel Dittmar is vice-president, Mary Ann Burgess, secretary, and Glen Wiseman, treasurer. Cathy Clark is membership chairman.

MISS ALLMAND PASSES

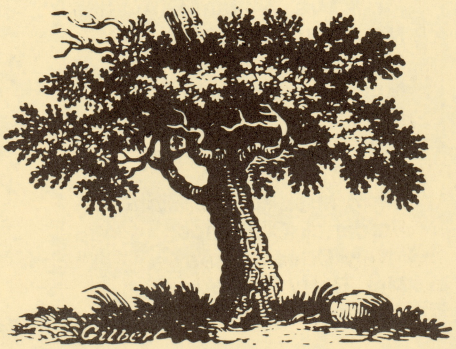
Miss Jeanette L. Allmand, 88, a retired registered nurse who had been a "regular" at recent WCHS meetings, died January 3. She had been employed at U-M Hospital 1922-67.



'WHAT IS IT?' GAME AVAILABLE TO SCHOOLS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it?" game for children to schools.

It is available for school classes, subject to time and volunteer availability. For information call Patricia Austin, 663-5281.



entertainment. Jonathan Morton, who settled in Ypsilanti in August, 1824, recalled that "the first party with dancing...was at Mr. Rumsey's in Ann Arbor."

It was about the first of January 1826. John Allen's father, "an old man, with locks as white as snow," played his violin for dancing upstairs.

"A long table, upon which was spread an excellent supper, monopolized most of the room below. A lasting impression was left on the guests from Ypsilanti, that Mrs. Rumsey was an excellent landlady and cook, and that Mr. Rumsey was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and that he knew how to keep a hotel," Morton wrote.

"Unlike John Allen who bought additional land as rapidly as he sold village lots, while going increasingly into debt as well, Elisha Rumsey did not involve himself in land speculation.

"Between 1825 and 1827, he gradually sold most of his village lots, receiving varying amounts depending upon their location, from $25 to $120.

"It is apparent that Rumsey gave much of his attention to his tavern and to farming. To provide the meat and produce for Mary Ann to serve their guests must have required considerable effort.

"He performed his duties as a justice of the peace, conducting an occasional marriage and periodically he drilled his company of militia. He also continued to assist land-hunters which involved his traveling further and further to the west.

"If Elisha and Mary Ann were like most other early settlers of Washtenaw county, they suffered during the summers from the ague, a form of malaria to which one usually became immune after two or three years. It was a miserable disease with acute chills and fever, but it was rarely fatal.

"In June 1826, Mary Ann bore a son whom she and Elisha christened Lewis Walker Rumsey." Later it is claimed the boy had been named Lewis Cass Rumsey in honor of the Governor but when Lewis was married in 1851 to Sarah A. Stockwell in Lafayette, Indiana, his name appeared as Lewis W. Rumsey. No descendants of Lewis have been located.

Mark Norris, an early settler in Ypsilanti, during his first visit to the county, wrote in his diary on July 19, 1827, that Ann Arbor "contains three inns, such as they are, four stores, two tanneries, two blacksmith shops and about twenty dwelling houses. The place is only three years old. There are three public squares for court house, jail and meeting house."

Sunday, July 30, Norris wrote, "There is no church and preaching here to-day. It seems to be a day for lounging and gossip. In the afternoon attended a wedding, and saw Mr. Higby united in 'hyman's gentle bonds' to Miss Ann Gorham."

ANN ARBOR, 1827: NEW MORALITY?

"The first court was held in Ann Arbor on January 15, 1827, with Samuel Dexter presiding as chief judge. Writing to his son the previous day, Ezra Maynard had observed:

> **All the formalities must be attended to but I hope not one case will be brought on the Docket. Some people yesterday mentioned that it was best to indit one man for living with a nother mans wife but I told them that that wold be commencing business that would perhaps never come to an end for I could name a number both male and female who had come here from the States and from Canada who were in this same situation and if they demeaned themselves as good wholesome inhabitants and no complaints come from those more interested, I thought we had better let them alone.**

"Although there was frequent apprehension among the early settlers regarding the Indians, some of whom regularly came to the cabins to beg, they usually threatened no serious harm.

"There was genuine fear on a summer evening in 1827, however, when word spread that several hundred Indians had quietly surrounded the village in a number of separate camps. There had been rumors earlier that some Indians were on the war-path so there was general fear that the village might be burned.

"There was little sleep that night among the settlers; Rumsey knew that his small militia would be no match to the hundreds that were said to be in the immediate area.

"There was great relief in the morning when the unwelcome guests quietly left. Later it was learned that they had been merely on their way to Malden to collect their annual presents from the British government for their service during the War of 1812.

"Sometime during the late summer of 1827, Rumsey became seriously ill. James T. Allen recalled many years later that Oliver Whitmore took over Rumsey's tavern either just before or following Elisha's death.

"Allen also stated that Rumsey died in the home of Cornelius Ousterhaut, but what the reason for this was is not clear. The *Detroit Gazette* simply reported that Rumsey had died on September 5, 1827. No clue has been found regarding the nature of his illness.

"Elisha was 41 years old when he died. The stone says 42 but he lacked two months," Dean Bidlack noted.

"There is some hint that Mary Ann may also have been quite ill at the same time or shortly thereafter. In settling the estate, Henry Rumsey, Elisha's brother who served as administrator, noted an expenditure of $5 for 'one set of bed curtains accidentally burnt during widows sickness.'"

"So it was that Mary Ann Rumsey found herself a widow, aged 25, with a child 15 months old. She declined to become administrator of the estate; her brother-in-law, Henry Rumsey, who had followed Elisha to Ann Arbor in 1826, agreed to do so.

"Dozens of records survive in the Washtenaw County Courthouse pertaining to the settlement of Rumsey's estate, which was not finally settled until 1832.

"When he became the administrator, Henry Rumsey assumed that his brother's estate would be adequate to pay all debts, so he began immediately to make payments to individuals having claims.

"He soon determined, however, that his brother still owned only 63 acres of land, including the unsold village lots, and that his debts were greater than the probable value of his possessions, once the widow's third was taken out along with the cost of probate. There were no burial costs.

"In the end it was found that Rumsey's debts totaled $2,081.95 while, after everything had been

sold except that alloted to Mary Ann, only $1,615.59½ remained. The many creditors, including Rumsey's father and brother, had to be content with 78 percent of the amount owed them.

"The largest creditor was Elisha's father back in Vermont. Whereas his claim had been $527.80, he received $411.78.

"As her widow's third, Mary Ann received 22 acres of the land that Elisha had purchased from John Allen between First Street and Allen's Creek including the lot where their house and tavern stood and livestock and household goods valued at $303.25.

"In reporting on the final settlement of Elisha Rumsey's estate in 1832, Henry Rumsey listed expenses in supporting the family of the deceased during the first year after his death.'

"It is significant, perhaps, that such support was provided only during the first year following Elisha's death. We know that by 1829, Mary Ann had married William Van Fossen—perhaps the marriage had taken place at the end of her first year of widowhood, in 1828.

"The Van Fossen family had come from western New York to Ann Arbor in 1826; on June 17 of that year Elisha W. Rumsey had sold to Samuel Van Fossen Lot 3 facing Fourth Avenue near Liberty Street.

"Little is known of the Van Fossen family, however. William Van Fossen, who became the husband of Mary Ann Rumsey, is believed to have been a son of Samuel and his wife Elizabeth. He was born about 1804 in New York, so was two years Mary Ann's junior.

"It does not appear that he had been married previously. He was a prosperous farmer, having acquired several tracts of land in Ann Arbor township.

"Mary Ann bore William Van Fossen a son in 1830; they named him William Jr. Nothing more is known of Mary Ann until 1832 when, that May, she and her husband moved further west, to Jackson County where government land could still be purchased for $1.25 an acre.

"Again Mary Ann was the pioneer wife. There was but one other cabin in the area when they arrived, that of a man named John Acker.

"William and Mary Ann selected a site in an oak opening on the north bank of the Kalamazoo River where the village of Concord would be built.

"By June their log cabin was finished, but just as they were settling in there suddenly appeared a land-hunter named Thomas McGee, with a wife and nine children.

"One of those children, 15-year-old Melville McGee, later a judge in Jackson County, recalled that they 'were received and cared for and enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. Van Fossen and his family as though they had been old friends.' From this it is apparent that Mary Ann was still her cordial and generous self.

"Van Fossen was joined later by his brother, Isaac, and together they built a saw-mill in 1835 and a flouring-milll in 1837. When Concord township was organized on March 23, 1836, the meeting was held in the Van Fossen home, and William was elected assessor.

"Judge McGee provides us a glimpse of Mary Ann in her new surroundings in his description of the problem sometimes presented by Indians when they came begging.

"The judge explained that they usually did not appear while the husband, whom they called the 'Chee-mo-kee-man,' was at home.

"The women, however, soon learned that if they opened the door and pointing to it told them to 'march-ee' they usually got rid of their troublesome vistor.

"One day, an Indian came to the cabin of William Van Fossen, who lived about a mile and a half from my father's log house, and having found out that the Chee-mo-kee-man was absent and being somewhat under the influence of liquor, he became very importunate in his demands and abusive as well, and wanted the white squaw to give him pretty much everything there was in the house.

"Mrs. Van Fossen, somewhat frightened at his insolence, opened the door and pointing to it ordered him to march-ee. To her surprise and alarm, he refused to budge an inch. He was armed with a rifle and she was alone and defenseless, without a weapon of any kind better than a broomstick.

"Although very much frightened she concealed it all from him and, with apparent fearlessness, adroitly manoeuvred around him until a favorable opportunity presented itself, when she suddenly sprang upon him and took his gun from him. She was then master of the situation...

"With the rifle in her hands and with the ability and disposition to use it, too, if necessity required, she stood guard over him, keeping him at a proper distance until her husband came, when his gun was given back to him and he was sent away.

"This was the most serious episode with the Indians that occurred in Concord so far as I ever knew," Judge McGee concluded.

Sometime after 1840, William Van Fossen moved his family again but not to a new frontier. They settled near the town of Lafayette in Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

Now approaching her 40th birthday, Mary Ann must have welcomed the comforts of a well established community. Two additional sons had been born while they lived in Michigan, and her son, Lewis Rumsey was still with her.

"We can imagine that this may have been the happiest period during Mary Ann's troubled life. It continued until 1849.

"A previously unknown disease called the Asiatic cholera had appeared in Russia in 1831 and was quickly carried to the United States by sailors; it had struck in epidemic form in Detroit in 1832.

"In 1849, it reoccurred through much of what we now call the Midwest, and it was especially severe in Indiana. Of an estimated population of 1,500 in the Lafayette area, 325 died that summer.

"On August 30, 1849, William Van Fossen, age 45, succumbed to the disease. Mary Ann followed him in death a week later, on September 7. She was 47 years old.

"The Greenbush Cemetery in which they were buried is now within the city limits of Lafayette. Mary Ann's tombstone still stands erect beside that of William, but one must look closely on the weathered stone to trace her name."

TANTALUS, OTHER GIFTS RECEIVED BY WCHS

A tantalus, photos of Ann Arbor's Armistice Day parade in 1918, Ann Arbor Educational Association (AAEA) documents to the 1950's and a German immigrant handbook are among recent acquisitions of the Society.

The tantalus, a tooled leather fitted case containing crystal decanter with gold enamel decoration and small glasses, circa 1880, French, was given by Clyde and Joan Nixon.

Miss Caroline Maier gave the photos. David Harrell, executive director of AAEA, gave the papers of the teachers' organization.

The German immigrant handbook, circa 1870-80, was put out by a steamship line to interest people in immigrating. Sharon Marbury is the donor.

MEMBERSHIP RISING, COME ON ABOARD

WCHS welcomes 374 members (to date) for 1986 and invites all readers to join. There are 81 new members including seven commercial. (Couple memberships are counted as two members in this total.)

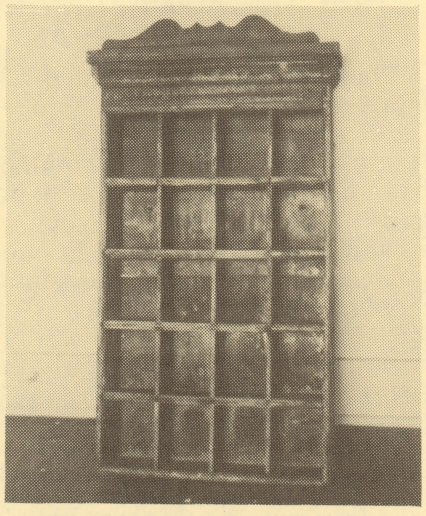
Regular membership is $8 individual, $15 a couple. Senior individual is $6, a senior couple, $11. Other types are sustaining, $50, commercial, $25; and student, $2.

To join simply send your name, address and phone number with a check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical society to Pauline Walters, Membership Chairman, 2200 Fuller Road B 1202, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Questions? Call Ms. Walters at 663-2379 evenings or weekends.

Persons 60 years of age or more are eligible for senior citizen membership. A couple is eligible when one member reaches 60. Paid up life memberships are no longer available.

ERIE CANAL GSWC TOPIC

Bruce Scott will speak on "The Erie Canal: Water Highway to Michigan" at the Genealogy Society of Washtenaw County meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 23, at Concordia College, Room 109, Classrooms Buildings. Class following on "Use of Military Records for Genealogy" by Carolyn Griffin.



WCHS's barber's shaving mug cabinet. In 1950, Custodian (Curator) Howell Taylor found it in the junk pile of a used furniture store near Tecumseh, paid $2 for it.

(continued from page 1.)

board (by Galen Wilson). It calls for collection, display, interpretation and protection of the collection by the Society.

He exhibited Orange Risdon's high chair, a late 18th century Windsor youth chair. Risdon was the government surveyor who laid out the first Detroit-Chicago road (now US-12) and founded Saline.

He also showed some carved house trim of 1830-40s vintage and pictures of chairs, a barber mug cabinet and a banjo clock in pieces (what antique dealers call a kit).

"I haven't seen items of this quality except in museums or very expensive "museum" shows like the one at Crisler Arena," he said.

A former antique dealer, now an appraiser, Kuehnle related that he had been in Lansing doing some work with the state museum recently.

Over lunch with the curators, he mentioned some things in the WCHS collection "and they got real excited. **You have Orange Risdon's high chair!**" They wondered if we would consider loaning it sometime.

MRS. SMYTH RE-ELECTED

Marjorie Smyth was re-elected president of the Webster Historical Society, Gloria Brigham, vice-president, Elizabeth Kleinschmidt, treasurer, and Mary Wheeler, secretary. May Mast took the vacant trustee position.

CHRISTMAS PAST RECALLED FONDLY

President Galen Wilson played host to a festive WCHS Christmas party in the handsome main room of Clements Library Sunday, December 8.

Seventy-five or more persons enjoyed punch and cookies and the music of the Westminster Presbyterian Church handbell choir, directed by Deborah Rebeck Ash.

The Christmas tree, surrounded by antique toys mostly from the Society collection, was uniquely decorated with simulated antique manuscripts and red bows.

The annual Christmas exhibit in the display cases featured holiday drawings by Thomas Nast, Civil War era cartoonist for *Harper's Weekly* who gave us our modern image of Santa Claus as well as the Republican elephant and Democratic donkey.

One cartoon showed Santa at his desk with piles of letters from parents of good and bad boys and girls. Two framed pictures behind Santa illustrate good and bad children. The "good" children are sitting stiffly motionless on a bench, the "bad" are in motion.

NEW BOOK REVISITS ANN ARBOR IN 'TEENS

A new 211-page paperback by Ann Arbor native Milo Ryan, *View of A Universe: A Love Story of Ann Arbor at Middle Age,* takes a nostalgic look at the town in the 'teens.

A U-M graduate, Ryan taught journalism at Wayne State University and the University of Washington in Seattle before retiring to California where he died December 20. He is buried in St. Thomas Cemetery here.

To order by mail send check or money order payable to the Ann Arbor Historical Foundation (for $9.95 plus $1 postage and handling), to 312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Also in local bookstores.

CERTIFICATE PRESENTED

Carol Freeman was presented a certificate in appreciation of her service on the WCHS Board at the November meeting. The Society also plans to present certificates to Karen Murphy and Doris Bailey who also retired from the Board.

NEW MEMBER'S KIN FIRST PERMANENT GERMAN FAMILY HERE

One of WCHS's newest members is descended from the first *permanent* German settler in Washtenaw County, he writes.

He is Herbert P. Wagner, Sr., a great-great grandson of Ernst Peter Schilling "who brought his family here in the spring of 1829 and settled in Scio township on Park Road."

The Schilling family had previously lived in Dansville, New York near Buffalo for about ten years after coming from Germany and before coming to Michigan.

MILAN PICKS BAUMANN

Milan Historical Society elected Ken Baumann president for 1986, Warren Hale, vice-president, Lorene Burger, secretary, and Larry Sanford, treasurer. Board members are Bill Smith, Dave Parker, Marvel Jones, Thomas King and Judy Mulder who is program co-ordinator.

RARE MUSICAL TREAT

Pianist Louise Gruppen of Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church where WCHS met in November played sheet music of Lucy Ann Clark who brought the first piano to Ann Arbor and of her daughter, Frances Kingsley. The sheet music was loaned by Clements Library.

CO-PRESIDENTS ELECTED

Tom O'Brien and Rusty Towers (Mrs. Stanley) have been re-elected co-presidents of Northfield Township Historical Society along with Cecil Warner, vice-president. Rosemary Donner is the new secretary and Gwenna Santure, new treasurer.

WASHTENAW COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEETING
2:30 P.M. SUNDAY
MARCH 9, 1986
American Legion
1035 South Main
Ann Arbor, Michigan

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS INVOLVE: DEPOT, WEATHERVANES, INDIANS, GERMAN DIARY

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Crippen Building at Chelsea Methodist Home. At long last the community has obtained the railroad depot and the society expects to be involved in money raising and renovation of it as a community meeting hall.

Judge Ross Campbell was to show historical slides at the February Founder's Day potluck.

Dexter Society: The annual arts and crafts fair, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 15, at Dexter High School gym will again feature 50-60 demonstrators. Included will be German paper cutting, wooden folk art weatervanes and an Ypsilantian specializing in finely detailed small cabinets. Admission $1.50, adult; 50 cents, grades 1-12.

Manchester Society: 8 p.m. third Monday at the Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Northfield Township Society: Potluck Supper, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, at Whitmore Lake Methodist Church. Mike Krebill will speak about his research on Indians in Northfield Township.

Their new paperback, *Looking Back: The History of Northfield Township and the Whitmore Lake Area,* is on sale at the township hall, 75 Barker Road, or from Society treasurer Gwenna Santure, 449-4867.

Salem Township Society: 7 p.m. last Thursday of the month at Salem Elementary School.

Webster Society: The Society made the front page of the *Ann Arbor News* last fall when they moved the Wheeler blacksmith shop and re-erected it near the Community House with the aid of Amish carpenters. Now begins Phase 2 to raise $5,000 for handmade windows, doors, ramp, well, toilet and fencing.

The Society now owns a tape recorder and plans to start an oral history project. A list of prospective interviewees is being compiled.

Past President Jim Parker has completed a 32-page history of Gotlieb Mast, taken from his journal aboard ship to America. It will soon be available at $3 a copy.

Ypsilanti Society: The Society's collection of buttons will be displayed at the museum, 220 North Huron, in March. It is open 2-4 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

MAKES FRONT PAGE

WCHS President Galen Wilson made the front page of the *Ann Arbor News* Saturday, November 23, in connection with a story of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Elisha Walker Rumsey, Ann Arbor co-founder. Wilson was pictured brushing snow from Rumsey's gravestone. They didn't mention he is WCHS president.

WCHS GIVES MEMORIAL FOR FOSTER FLETCHER

In memory of Foster Fletcher, Ypsilanti city historian who died last October 31 at age 88, WCHS sent a letter recognizing his many contributions to local history to his son, Peter, and a $50 memorial gift to the Ypsilanti Historical Society.

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Mailing: Lucy Kooperman, 668-7174
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